

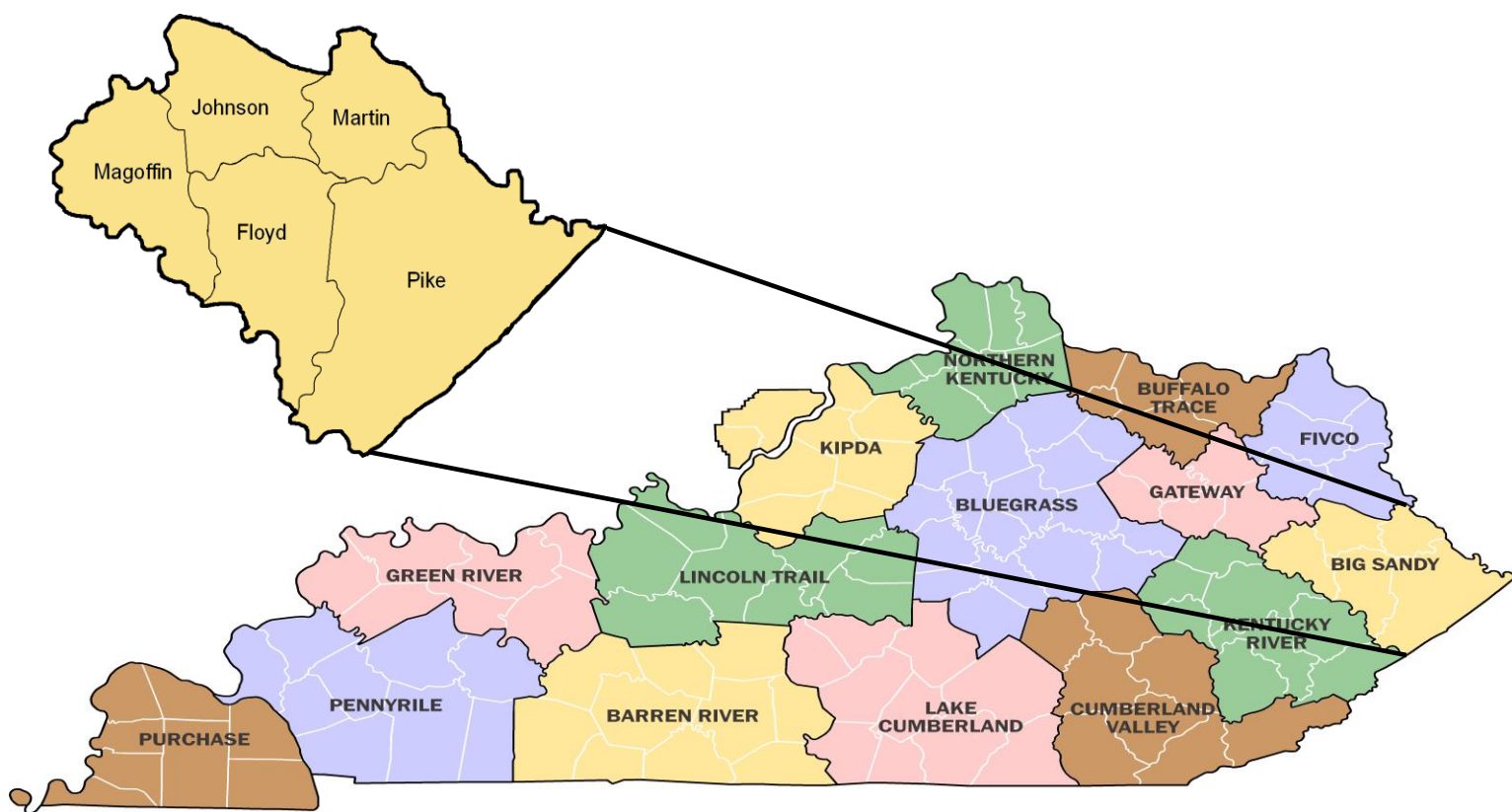
Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative

A Survey of Commonwealth Residents

Big Sandy

September 20, 2007

****PRELIMINARY REPORT****



Graduate Center for Gerontology *Assistance. Advocacy. Answers on Aging.*



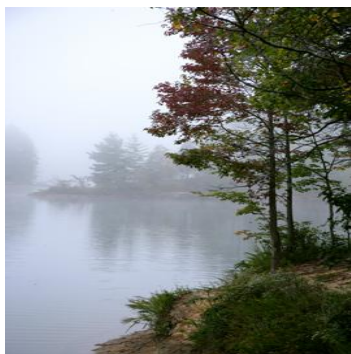
Department for Aging and Independent Living

Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative

Big Sandy Area Development District

Big Sandy: The Context

The Big Sandy Area Development District, BSADD, is located in the eastern most section of the state. The District includes the counties of Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike. All five of its constituent counties lie within the Eastern Coalfield region of the state. Big Sandy's economy has been dependent on coal, with much of the area thrust into poverty as coal prices fell. The dual themes of coal and poverty have been featured in many documentary films about the area including *Country Boys*, about two young men growing up in a poor, rural mountain town in Floyd County; and *Sludge*, a film chronicling the Martin County sludge spill and its environmental impact on the Tug Fork River.



Jenny Wiley
State Park,
Prestonsburg, KY

Opportunities for higher education in Big Sandy include Big Sandy Community and Technical College and Pikeville College, a private 4-year institution which also houses an osteopathic medical school, one of only three medical schools in the Commonwealth. Notable residents of Big Sandy include country music singers Loretta Lynn (born in Butcher Holler, Johnson County), Crystal Gayle (born in Paintsville, Johnson County), Dwight Yoakam (born in Pikeville, Pike County) and Patty Lovelace (born in Elkhorn City, Pike County). Local culture, art, music, and theatre are on display at both the Mountain Arts Center, home of the Kentucky Opry and the Jenny Wiley Theatre, both in Prestonsburg. Popular tourist attractions in Big Sandy include Jenny Wiley State Resort Park in Prestonsburg, and Salyersville's Pioneer Village and Ramey Memorial Park. Heritage and local culture are celebrated at Magoffin County's Founder's Day Festival, Pikeville's Hillbilly Days, Mouthcard Community Day, and The Kentucky State Apple Festival in Paintsville.

The KERI Initiative

The Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative (KERI) was announced by Governor Ernie Fletcher on August 15, 2005. The goal of KERI is to foster statewide awareness, dialogue and insight into the challenges and opportunities provided by the aging of the "Baby Boom" population (persons born between 1946 and 1964) and to stimulate local and statewide initiatives to appropriately address the pending changes that will result from this process. KERI is based on a positive philosophy of old age. Elders are viewed not as dependent but as a resource. Planning for our future involves all age groups and constituencies and the participation of elders in the process is essential. KERI is also concerned with regional differences. What is appropriate for Paducah may not apply to Louisville or reflect the needs and potential of Hazard or Somerset. Finally, KERI is part of a process of continuous planning; it is not a report to be placed on a shelf but rather a statewide movement to prepare for a better future. Participation of the media in this movement is vital.

Initial KERI activities involved assembling background information on Baby Boomers and elders in Kentucky. A series of fact sheets summarizing this information for each Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is available on our website:

(<http://www.mc.uky.edu/gerontology/keri.htm>).

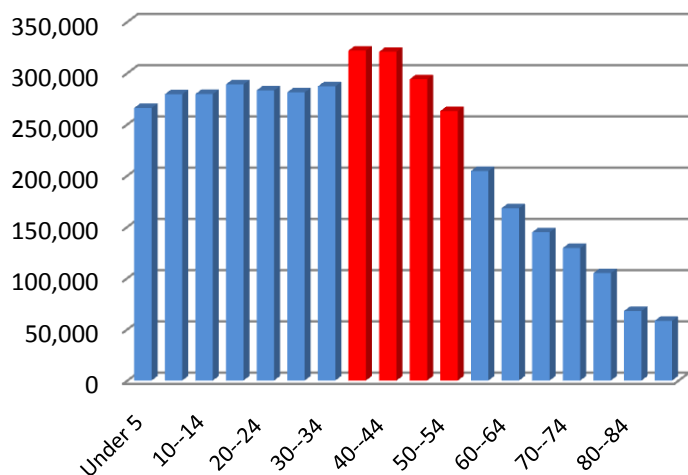
In the summer of 2006, two focus groups (one with community leaders and one with service providers) and a community forum were conducted in each of the 15 AAAs. Findings from the focus groups were incorporated into a statistically representative statewide survey sent to 9,600 Kentucky households in the summer of 2007. Preliminary descriptive findings from this survey for Big Sandy are presented in this report. These preliminary data are intended to provoke discussion and elicit feedback that can be incorporated into a final report which will include both additional comparative data and analysis and recommendations resulting from community forums and discussions.

The KERI Survey

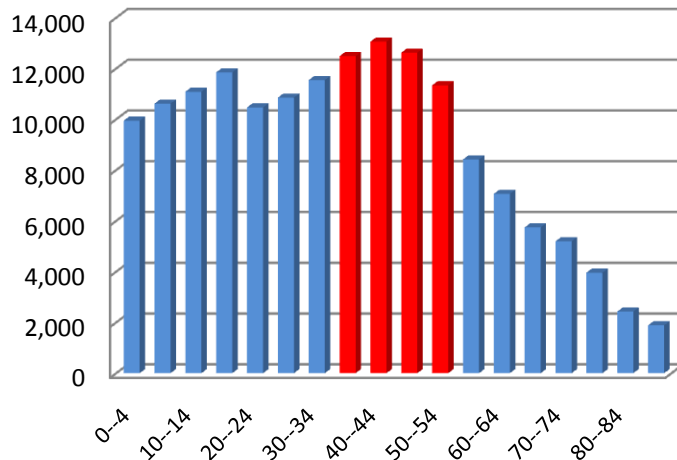
Information provided in this report was derived from a statistically representative random sample of 640 households in the Big Sandy Area Development District conducted by the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center in June and July of 2007. Responses were received from 158 households representing a response rate of 24.7%. Data are presented by age group and distinguish between persons born prior to 1946 (62 years of age and older) and Baby Boomers (persons born between 1946 and 1964). The Baby Boom cohort is further broken down into a 1st Wave (born between 1946-1955) and a 2nd Wave (born between 1956-1964). All quotations in the report are from Big Sandy residents.

Big Sandy Area Development District—Demographics

Kentucky's Population by Age Group (2000)



Big Sandy Population by Age Group (2000)

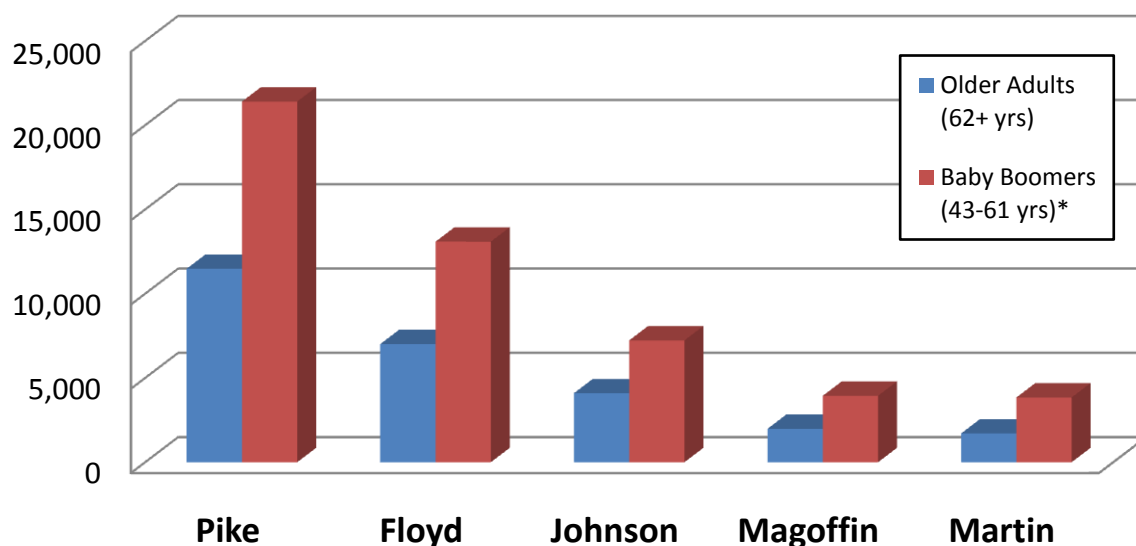


Comparison of profiles between the state and Big Sandy shows the impact of the Baby Boom generation (shaded-in red) on both scales. Big Sandy records a more pronounced Baby Bust following the Baby Boom than does the state as a whole that is particularly apparent in the age group from 20-24 (persons born between 1976—1980). Increased births representing an “echo” Boom (the children of baby Boomers) are reflected in the number of residents in the 15-19 age groups.

Big Sandy: The Population

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Big Sandy Area Development District was home to 26,265 persons 60 and older representing 16.4% of the population. It is anticipated that this population will increase to 45,431 persons 60 and older by 2030 representing 29.9% of the population, a 73.0% increase from 2000. A significant proportion of this increase can be attributed to the aging of the Baby Boom generation which in 2000 comprised 49,504 residents between the ages of 35 and 54 and represented 30.8% of the Big Sandy population.

Older Adults and Baby Boomers in the Big Sandy Area Development District (2000)



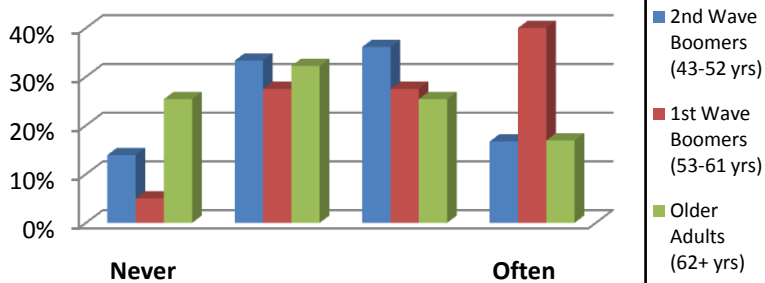
“The assisted living complex in our town is full. The nursing homes usually have a waiting list ... We need to act soon to prepare for the Baby Boomer generation of aging. There won’t be enough resources available if we do not.”

US Bureau of the Census, 2000 (SF 1)

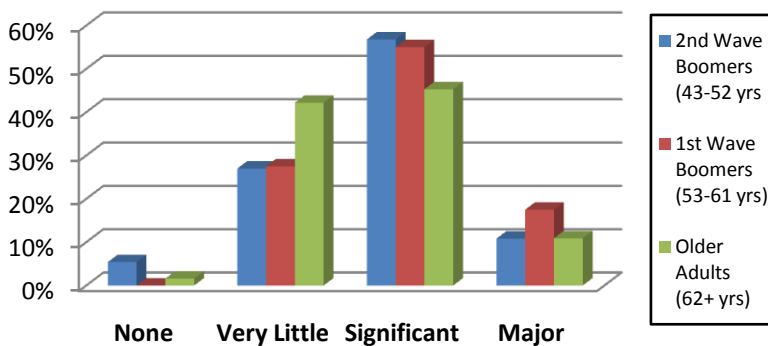
* Persons age 35 in 2000 are not included in Baby Boom Cohort due to US Bureau of the Census (2000) age groupings

Big Sandy Area Development District—Survey Findings

How often do you think about what the effects of the aging of the Baby Boomers might be for you?



Impact on Communities from Aging Boomers



Retirement

The majority of older adults (58.7%) and almost half of the Baby Boomers (47.4%) responding to the survey in the Big Sandy Area Development District consider "retirement is a well-deserved reward for years of hard work." Many respondents (19.0% of older adults and 23.7% of Baby Boomers) "... don't want to ever completely retire." A significant group of respondents (20.6% of older adults and 17.1% of Baby Boomers) consider that retirement is "something you are forced to do." Only five respondents (3.6%) "...never think about retirement."

Reflecting on their potential use of services in retirement, two-thirds of older adults (65.6%) and approaching two-thirds of Baby Boomers (61.0%) consider themselves to be "somewhat familiar" with elder services in their community. More than a third of Baby Boomers (35.1%) and 23.4% of older adults admit that they consider themselves to be "not at all familiar" with services for elders (persons over 60).

Awareness

A major insight from the focus groups was a lack of awareness of issues related to the aging of the Baby Boom generation. Many participants had never thought about the issue and a number of Baby Boomers admitted to being in a "state of denial." The Big Sandy survey findings present a different picture. When asked how often they thought about what the effects of the aging of Baby Boomers might be, approaching two-thirds of Baby Boomers (60.5%) admitted to thinking about this issue "often" or in the next most frequent category. Fewer older adults (42.3%) admitted to thinking about this issue "often" or in the next most frequent category.

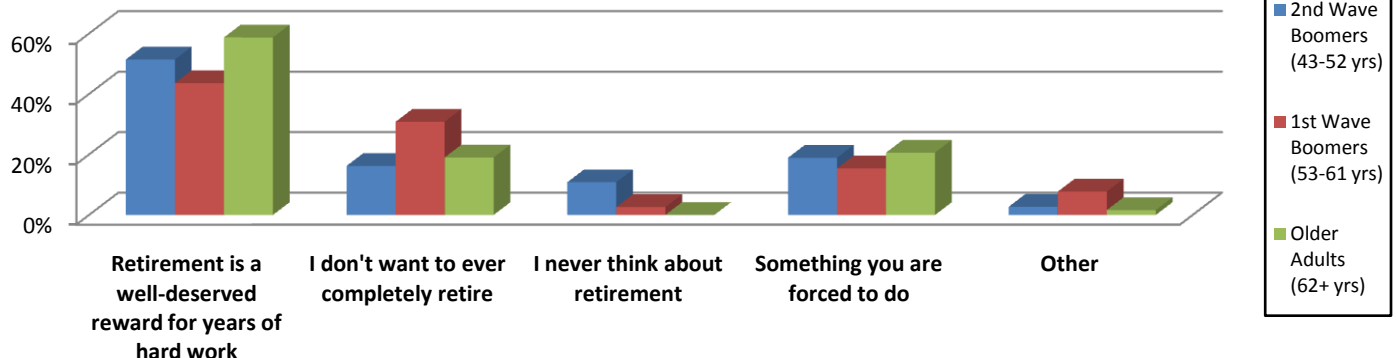
Only three respondents (2.1%) considered that aging of the Baby Boomers would have no effect on their community. Instead, 70.1% of the Baby Boomers and 56.2% of older adults considered that the aging of the Baby Boomers would have a **significant** or **major** impact. Interestingly more than one quarter of Baby Boomers and (27.3%) and 42.2% of older adults considered that the aging of the Baby Boomers would have **very little** impact on their community.

While the data suggest growing awareness of what has been described as a pending "demographic tsunami," 84.0% of the Baby Boomers and 62.3% of the surveyed older adults either "somewhat" or "strongly" disagree with the statement that their community is "actively preparing for retirement and aging of the Baby Boomers." Only six respondents, 4.4% of those responding, "strongly agreed" with this statement. The implication is that residents of Big Sandy would support additional initiatives aimed at addressing the problems and opportunities presented by the aging of the Baby Boomer generation.

Big Sandy respondents consider that aging of the Baby Boom population will have a negative influence on housing, tax revenues, funding for services and caregiving for elders.

In contrast, Big Sandy respondents consider that aging of the Baby Boomer generation will have a positive influence on employment, transportation, environmental design, health care delivery and aging services.

Attitudes About Retirement



Big Sandy Area Development District—Survey Findings

Finances

Most Big Sandy respondents (84.0% of Baby Boomers and 80.7% of older adults) either “somewhat” or “strongly” agree with the statement that they “worry/worried about being prepared for retirement.” The data on projected sources of income indicate some justification for such fears.

One third of the Baby Boomers surveyed (32.9%) and slightly more than one-third of older adults (36.0%) consider money provided by an employer like a pension or retirement account (“not one you paid into”) will be a major source of income in their retirement but, significantly, 47.9% of Baby Boomers and 38.0% of older adults consider that this will not be “a source of retirement income.”

Baby Boomers are more likely than older adults to consider that money placed into a retirement plan at work, such as a 401K plan will be a major source of income in their retirement plan (2nd Wave Baby Boomers—27.8%, 1st Wave Baby Boomers—21.6%, and older adults—13.3%). Well over half of those responding (52.1% of Baby Boomers and 53.3% of older adults) do not view such funds as a source of retirement income.

“Other personal savings not in a work related retirement plan (e.g. IRA, savings account)” are anticipated to be a major source of income in retirement by about one-quarter of older adults (24.5%) but only 8.7% of Baby Boomers. The majority of Baby Boomers (52.2%) do not consider that personal savings will be a source of income in their retirement. This contrasts with 38.8% of older adults who hold this view.

Big Sandy residents continue to place strong reliance on the Social Security system. Two-thirds of the older adults (66.7%) and well over half of the Baby Boomers responding to the survey (58.7%) consider that Social Security is, or will be, a major source of their retirement income. More than one-quarter of the remainder of each group (26.7% of older adults and 25.3% of Baby Boomers) anticipate that Social Security will be a minor source of their retirement income.

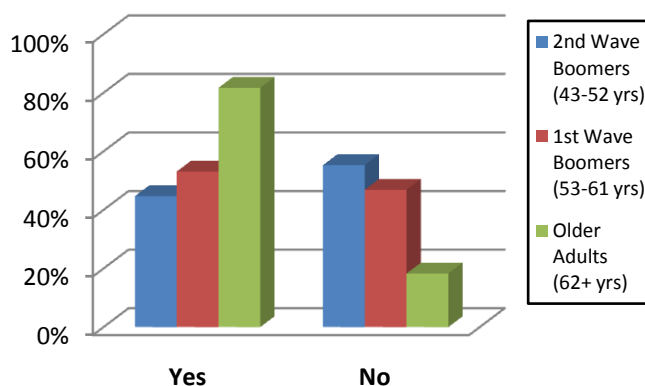
Continuing heavy expectations of the Social Security system for retirement income contrast with much of the remainder of the state where anticipations of the Social Security system appear to be declining with increased reliance on other sources. In this context, limited expectations of income from alternative sources in the Big Sandy area is cause for concern.

Employment

Few of the current older adults who responded to the survey currently work either full or part time (17.8%) but a large majority (81.7%) plan to do so during their retirement. In contrast, less than half of the Baby Boomers (48.6%) plan to work during retirement.

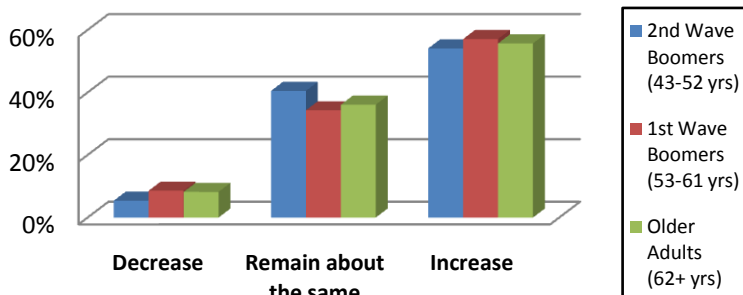
Of those who plan to work during retirement, 50.0% of older adults and 54.3% of the Baby Boomers who responded indicated that the major reason for this decision will be to earn “money to make ends meet.” Almost three-quarters of older adults (72.8%) and 41.2% of Baby Boomers who plan to work during retirement cited “want to keep working” as a major reason. Finally, the need “to keep health insurance or other benefits” was reported as a major reason for working post retirement by 45.5% of older adults and 50.0% of Baby Boomers.

Plan to Work During Retirement



“Many of the Baby Boomers live for the day. They spend, they max out all their credit cards, they have all their toys...Many of them think that in 20 years they are going to be...[They may say] I need to think about retirement and the 20 years end up passing.”

Perceived Need for Public Transportation in Future



Transportation

Almost two-thirds of older adults (65.6%) and 43.3% of Baby Boomers in Big Sandy consider that their community does not have public transportation. At the same time, 55.7% of older adults and 55.6% of Baby Boomers anticipate that their public transportation needs will increase as they age. Providing and paying for such transportation, especially in Big Sandy's most isolated rural areas, in the context of rising transportation costs is already a significant challenge. Meeting this challenge is likely to become even more difficult in the future.

Big Sandy Area Development District—Survey Findings

Housing

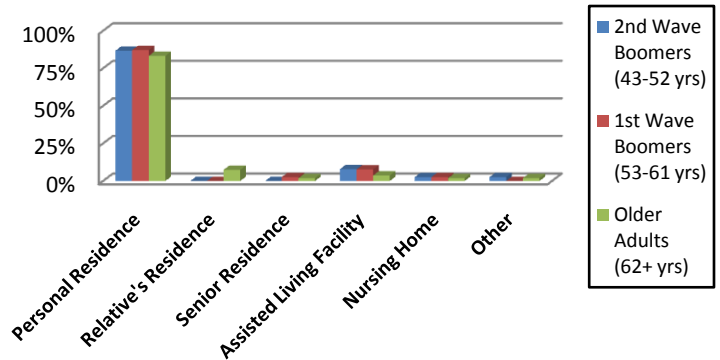
Big Sandy respondents expect to remain in their present residence as they age. When asked where they see themselves living at age 75, 87.0% of Baby Boomers and 83.3% of current older adults expect to be living in their personal residence. When asked the same question, but for when they are 90 years of age, a little over one-third of both groups (36.0% of Baby Boomers and 36.2% of current older adults) expect to still be living in a personal residence.

Living in a relative's residence has historically been considered an option for elders as they become increasingly frail, but Big Sandy residents support current literature suggesting that this is considered a last resort by both elders and their families. No Baby Boomers and only four older adults (7.4%) in the sample see themselves as living with a relative at 75, although when they are 90+ this percentage rises to 17.3% for Baby Boomers and 8.5% for older adults.

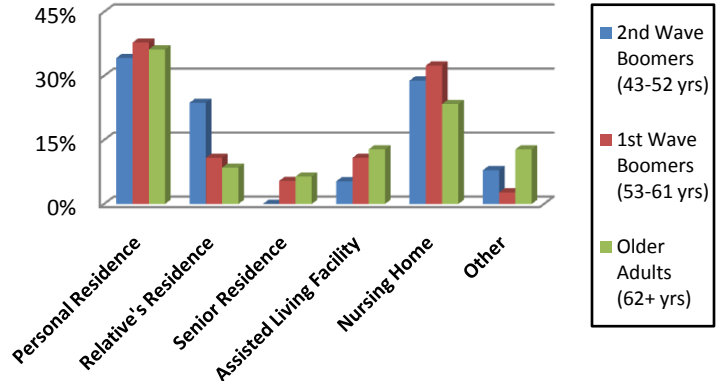
A surprisingly large percentage of the respondents see themselves as residing in a nursing home when they are 90+. Approaching one-third (30.7%) of Baby Boomers and 23.4% of current older adults see themselves as living in this setting. If this turns out to be the case we can expect significantly increased demand for such facilities.

Recent decades have seen the emergence of assisted living options as a supportive residential option for elders. This preference is apparent in the Big Sandy area although to a lesser extent than in other parts of Kentucky with 8.0% of Baby Boomers and 12.8% of older adults anticipating residence in this setting when they are 90+.

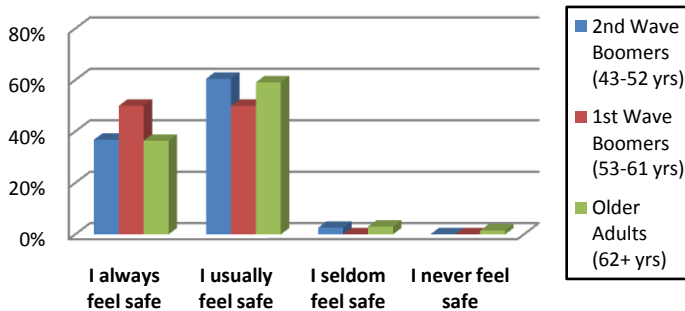
Where People See Themselves Living at Age 75



Where People See Themselves Living at Age 90+



Perceived Feeling of Safety in Community



"Move towards getting more assisted living facilities. I don't want my kids to take care of me."

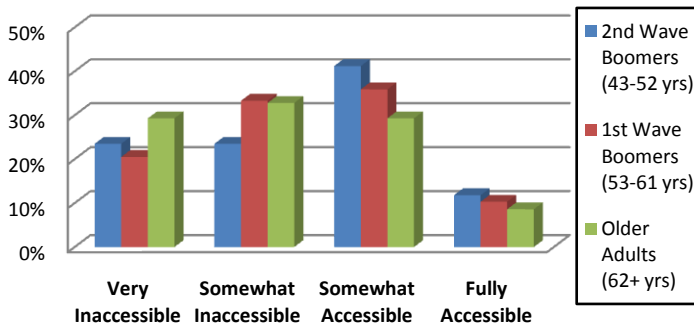
Health and Safety

Overwhelmingly, Big Sandy respondents feel safe in their communities. Older adults either "always feel safe" (36.0%) or "usually feel safe" (59.1%) in their communities. Baby Boomers universally agreed; 43.6% "always feel safe" and 55.1% "usually feel safe." This high level of perceived safety is reassuring.

A major concern identified in the focus groups was the degree to which the physical environment is accessible to both current older adults and Baby Boomers. Only 37.9% of older adults consider the physical environment (sidewalks, steps, or lighting) in their neighborhood to be either "somewhat" or "fully accessible." A higher percentage of Baby Boomers (49.4%) hold this opinion. In contrast, it is important to acknowledge that 29.3% of older adults and 21.9% of Baby Boomers consider their physical environment to be "very inaccessible."

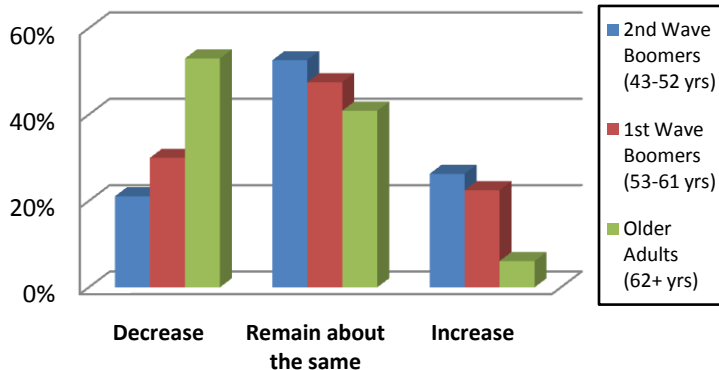
This difference likely reflects major local variations in the quality of the micro physical environment. It suggests a need for identification and focused attention on the quality of specific local and micro-environments.

Accessibility of Physical Environment



Big Sandy Area Development District—Survey Findings

Community Involvement as one Ages



Community Involvement

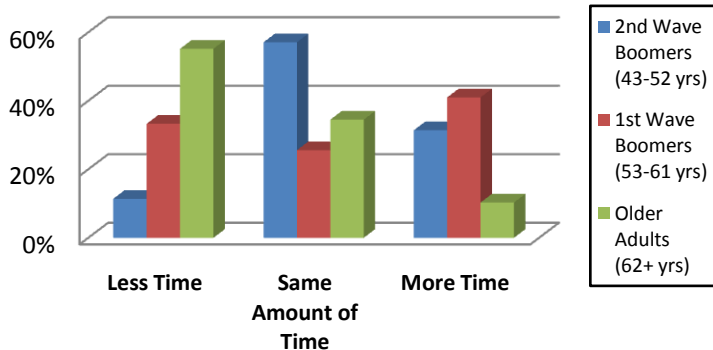
Big Sandy residents were asked about their anticipated future community involvement and propensity to engage in volunteer activities. A clear pattern emerges. Half of the Baby Boomers surveyed (50.0%) and 40.9% of older adults expect their level of involvement in community activities to “remain about the same.” Interestingly, about one-quarter of the Baby Boomers surveyed (25.6%) anticipate a “decrease” in their level of community activities as they grow older and about the same percentage (24.4%) anticipate an “increase”. This contrasts with only 6.1% of older adults who expect their level of involvement in community activities to increase.

When asked about the amount of time they plan to spend volunteering ten years from now, older adults (55.2%), perhaps anticipating declining health and reduced ability were overwhelming more likely than Baby Boomers (23.0%) to respond that they would spend “less time” volunteering than they do currently.

Reinforcing the findings with regard to anticipated involvement in community activities, more than one-third of the Baby Boomers (36.5%) indicated that they will spend “more time” volunteering ten years from now, compared to only 11.3% of current older adults. A higher percentage of 1st Wave Boomers (41.0%) than 2nd Wave Baby Boomers (31.4%) anticipate increasing their level of volunteering.

These findings suggest a split in the Baby Boom generation. Disappointingly, a significant proportion project less community involvement as they grow older. On the other hand, we can take solace from the intention of about one-third of this group to become more actively involved in both volunteer and community activities.

Time Spent Volunteering 10 Years From Now



Life Quality

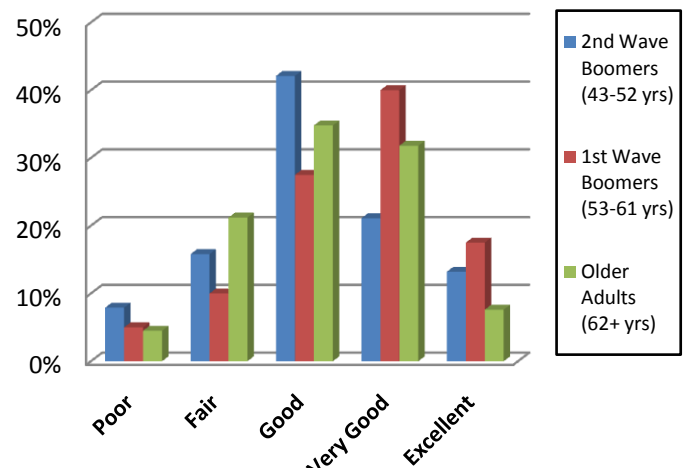
Big Sandy respondents rated their current quality of life positively. Given choices of “poor”, “fair”, “good”, “very good”, and “excellent,” only eight respondents (5.6%), five Baby Boomers and three older adults, rated their current quality of life as “poor.” In contrast, 7.6% of older adults and 15.4% of Baby Boomers rated their quality of life as “excellent.” In addition, about two-thirds of both Baby Boomers (65.4%) and older adults (66.6%) rated their quality of life as “good” or “very good.”

When asked to project their quality of life over the next ten years, the majority of both Baby Boomers (53.8%) and older adults (61.5%) considered that it would “remain about the same.” Older adults were more pessimistic than Boomers with 38.5% expecting their quality of life to “get worse” over the next 10 years in contrast with 29.5% of Baby Boomer respondents who expressed this opinion. No older adult (0.0%) anticipated that their quality of life would “improve” but 13 Baby Boomers (16.7%) expressed this expectation.

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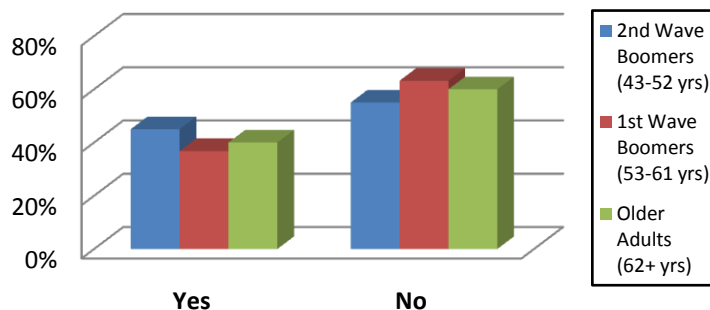
“There will be occasions when the elderly doesn't have a family member to take care of them and that will be a problem.”

Current Quality of Life

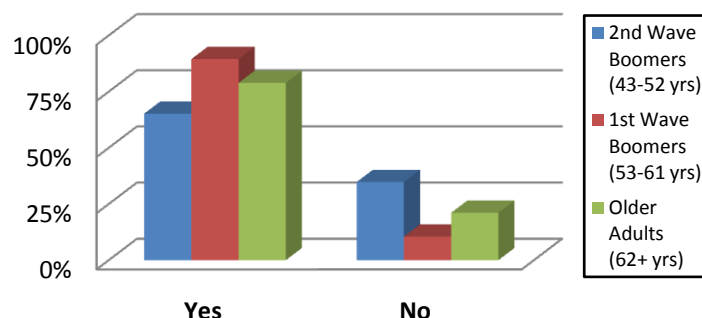


Big Sandy Area Development District—Survey Findings

**Senior Centers
Plan to Use in Future**



**Public Parks
Plan to Use in Future**



“We need to focus on communities built for the special needs of elderly people. We could take some pointers from the “villages” in Florida—maybe on a smaller scale. Wouldn’t it be wonderful for Kentucky to be a leader or innovator in this area. I understand it takes time and money, but if we had better care and better accommodations the health and mental state of our loved ones and eventually ourselves would greatly improve. Maybe you’re already doing this but if we had forums to discuss these issues we could come up with new and innovative ideas. Thanks for listening.”

Life Quality (cont’d)

A series of questions focused on 14 separate indicators of quality of life ranging from the availability of venues for the arts and lifelong learning opportunities to restaurants, shopping centers and grocery stores.

Only 30.6% of Baby Boomers and 26.3% of older adults have taken advantage of lifelong learning opportunities (e.g. computer, art, accounting classes, etc.) in the past twelve months. More Baby Boomers (42.9%) anticipate doing so in the future. But only 28.6% of older adults responding to the survey in the Big Sandy Area Development District plan in the future to engage in lifelong learning opportunities. As the Baby Boomers age there will be some increased demand on educational resources.

There is general consensus that many volunteer opportunities (service in hospitals, food pantries etc.) are currently available in the Big Sandy area. Both Baby Boomers (81.0%) and the current generation of older adults (71.4%) share this view. While in the past twelve months only 20.8% of the Baby Boomers have participated in such opportunities to enhance their quality of life, 53.7% plan to do so in the future. Fewer older adults (35.0%) report this aspiration.

There is also widespread acknowledgement that support groups (e.g. caregiver, A.A.) are available in the Big Sandy area, with 73.7% of Baby Boomers and 68.0% of older adults reporting such knowledge. Very few Baby Boomer respondents (2.2%) have used support groups in the past 12 months but many more (18.4% of those surveyed) anticipate using such resources in the future. A much higher percentage of current older adults (36.8%) see such a need in their future.

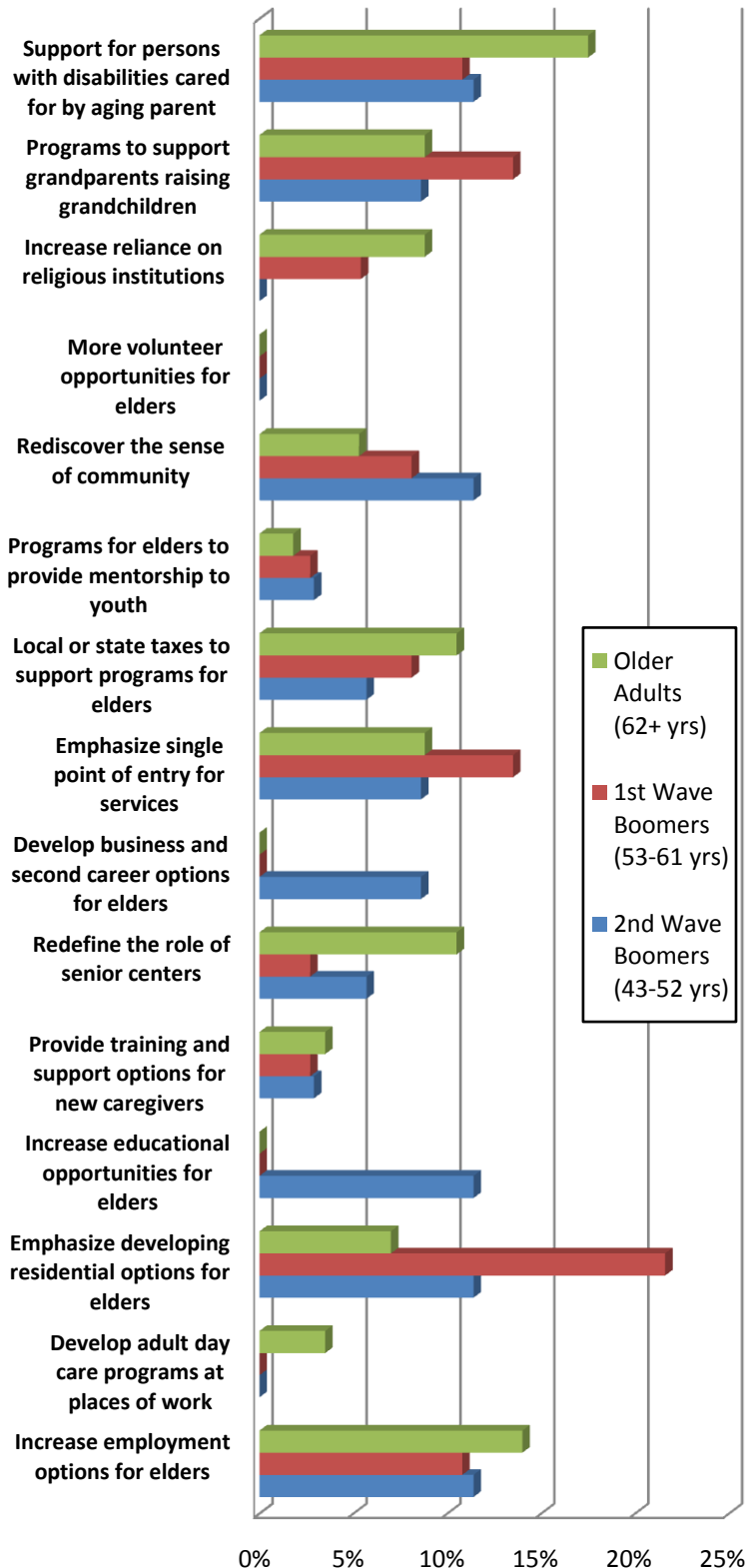
The majority of both Baby Boomer (59.3%) and older adult respondents (73.3%) have used public parks in their community during the past 12 months. An even higher percentage of both groups (Baby Boomers, 76.2% and older adults, 78.9%) plan to use this resource in the future, reinforcing a need to focus on ensuring that public parks are elder accessible.

A significant proportion of older adults (37.8%) in the Big Sandy sample have used a Senior Center in the past 12 months. When future plans are considered, 41.0% of the Baby Boomers and 40.0% of the older adults surveyed, plan to use Senior Centers. A higher percentage of 2nd Wave (45.0%) than 1st Wave (36.8%) Baby Boomers anticipate using Senior Centers in the future. This finding suggests that, if Senior Centers are to be considered the community-based hub of the elder services delivery system in the future, there is a need to redefine their focus in a manner attuned to ways in which the needs of Baby Boomers differ from the current generation of older adults. This need is likely to be especially important when planning for 2nd Wave Boomers.

When asked which one of the 14 life quality resources they considered most important, 44.6% of the Baby Boomers and 42.9% of older adult respondents rated “churches, spiritual groups and other religious organizations” as the most important, far outstripping shopping centers (12.2% among Baby Boomers and 10.7% among older adults), and large grocery stores (8.1% among Baby Boomers and 17.9% among older adults). The extreme importance placed on the church and faith organizations reinforces findings from the focus groups which also revealed the importance and potential of this constituency as a resource for addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by an aging population. Other resources considered most important for quality of life by Baby Boomers were lifelong learning opportunities (8.1%), restaurants (5.4%) and recreational facilities, e.g. gyms, walking paths etc. (5.4%). Other resources considered most important to quality of life among older adults were senior centers (7.1%) and social organizations, e.g. Rotary, Kiwanis, League of Women Voters, etc. (7.1%).

Big Sandy Area Development District—Survey Findings

Most Important Future Directions in Preparation for the Aging of the Baby Boom Population (Percentage Ranking as Most Important)



Future Directions

One outcome from the 30 focus groups conducted around the state in 2006 was a series of suggestions for future directions that the Commonwealth and individual communities might take in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by aging of the Baby Boomers. In the survey, Big Sandy respondents were asked to prioritize many of these suggestions.

Perhaps reflecting concern about their own financial future, 59.0% of Baby Boomers and 45.2% of older adults responded that **increasing employment options** for elders was “very important.” An additional 38.5% of Baby Boomers and 50.0% of older adults considered this to be “somewhat important.”

Baby Boomers and current older adults agreed on the importance of developing **adult day care programs at places of work**. Well over one-third of the Baby Boomer respondents (40.3%) considered this a “very important” and 48.1% a “somewhat important” priority. Older adults concurred, with 36.7% responding that the development of such programs was “very important” and 45.0% “somewhat important.” Some older adults were less enthusiastic with 18.3% responding that they considered this was “not important” as an option.

Three-quarters of the Baby Boomers responding to the survey (75.6%) considered that placing emphasis on **developing residential options for elders** was “very important.” An additional 21.8% considered this option “somewhat important.” The views of older adults were similar with 58.1% rating this strategy as “very important” and an additional 37.1% rating it as “somewhat important.” Only five respondents (3.6%), two Baby Boomers and three older adults, considered this strategy “not important.”

Almost one-half of the respondents (49.6%) considered that **increasing educational opportunities for elders** was “somewhat important.” Baby Boomers (42.3%) were more likely than older adults (36.1%) to rate this option as “very important.”

When asked about the importance of providing **training and support options for new caregivers**, a large majority of both Baby Boomers (67.5%) and older adults (62.7%) rated this strategy as “very important.” Second wave Baby Boomers (68.8%), perhaps acknowledging current and future potential stresses in caring for their own aging relatives, were slightly more likely than 1st Wave Baby Boomers (60.3%) to respond that this was “very important.” Only one Baby Boomer (1.3%) and two older adults (3.4%) considered that placing a priority on such training was “not important.”

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Big Sandy Area Development District—Survey Findings

Future Directions Cont'd

Redefining the role of senior centers was considered “very important” (60.3%) or “somewhat important” (34.6%) by the large majority of Baby Boomers. Older adults expressed the same opinion with 46.7% rating this need as “very important” and 46.7% responding that this was “somewhat important.” These findings support an emerging consensus that there is a need to redefine the role of senior centers for the Baby Boom generation by providing resources such as gyms and computer use areas. Interestingly, the current generation of older adults seemed to share this view, with only four respondents in this group (6.7%) suggesting that this is “not important” as a priority.

Baby Boomers (51.3%) are more likely than older adults (41.7%) to respond that placing emphasis on developing **business and second career options for elders** is “very important.” An additional 42.3% of Baby Boomer and 53.3% of older adults indicate that this is “somewhat important.”

When asked about the importance of emphasizing a single **point of entry (one place to call) for services or information**, 61.0% of Baby Boomers and 70.5% of older adults responded that they considered this “very important.” Very few respondents, one Baby Boomer (1.3%) and two older adults (3.3%) considered this option, currently being pursued as a high priority in the Commonwealth, to be “not important.”

There was significant support among Baby Boomers for **raising taxes to support programs for elders**. Indeed, 55.1% of the Baby Boomer respondents rated introducing local or state taxes to support programs for elders as “very important” and a further 33.3% considered this to be a “somewhat important” strategy. Current older adults are less enthusiastic. While 27.9% consider this option to be very important and almost half agree that it is “somewhat important,” almost one-quarter of older adult respondents (23.0%) responded that this is “not important as a direction to pursue. The pattern of these findings may reflect a growing realization within the Big Sandy area, particularly among Baby Boomers, of the need to find additional sources of funding to support needed programs for elders as they become frail.

There was consensus among Baby Boomers and older adults regarding the need to develop **programs for elders to provide mentorship or guidance to youth**. More than half of each group (52.6% of Baby Boomers and 55.0% of older adults) considered this as “somewhat important” and 42.3% of Baby Boomers and 38.3% of older adults rated this direction as “very important.”

One unexpected finding from the focus groups was the view expressed by a number of participants that it is important for Kentucky citizens and communities to **rediscover a sense of community and community support that was a traditional component of Kentucky life in the past**. Both Baby Boomers and older adults endorse this need with more than half of each group (56.4% of Baby Boomers and 52.5% of older adults) responding that this is “very important.” Only five respondents (3.6%), three Baby Boomers and two older adults, consider this strategy to be “not important.”

The majority of both Baby Boomers (50.0%) and older adults (56.7%) rate developing more **volunteer opportunities for elders** as “somewhat important.” Baby Boomers (44.9%) are more likely than older adults (38.3%) to rate this strategy as “very important.”

Churches, spiritual groups and other religious organizations were considered to be by far the most important among the various contributors to quality of life considered in the survey. But there seems to be somewhat less enthusiasm for placing **‘increased reliance on churches and religious institutions for the support of frail elders.’** Approaching one-half of older adults (45.8%) but a lower percentage of Baby Boomers (37.3%) considered this to be a “very important” option.”

More than 30,000 older Kentuckians have primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren. Recognizing a major current concern in the Commonwealth with developing support for these individuals, 70.5% of Baby Boomers and 64.5% of older adults consider that it is “very important” to develop **programs to support grandparents raising grandchildren**.

There is also widespread concern among both older adults and Baby Boomers with providing programs for **long term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent**, a current area of focus among policy makers and service professionals in Kentucky. A huge majority of Baby Boomers (82.1%) and more than three-quarters of older adults (77.0%) consider this to be “very important.” Only two respondents (1.4%), one Baby Boomer and one older adult responded that in their view this option is “not important.”

When asked to identify which of the potential future directions they considered “the most important” in preparing for the Baby Boom population, Baby Boomers identify “developing residential options for elders” (16.7%) as the most favored priority. “Increasing employment options for elders” (11.1%), emphasizing “single point of entry (one place to call) for services or information” (11.1%), “developing programs for support of grandparents raising grandchildren” (11.1%), and providing “programs for long term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent” (11.1%) are also strongly supported options. Among older adults providing “programs for long term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent” (17.5%) was the top priority. Other options rated as “most important” by older adults included increasing “employment options for elders” (14.0%), redefining the role of senior centers to “address the needs of Baby Boomers as they age” (10.5%), and “introducing local or state taxes to support programs for elders (10.5%).

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